

Statewide Environmental Services, Inc.

JUN 28

200 Oceangate, Suite 540, Long Beach, CA 90802
(213) 437-2242 Fax (213) 437-4562

10/2/96

June 25, 1991

Department of Health Services
Toxic Substances Control Program (Region 3)
1405 N. San Fernando Boulevard, Suite 300
Burbank, CA 91504

ATTN: Jerry Lile

RE: Incident Involving Hazardous Waste

Further to my letter of May 23, 1991, a copy of which is attached, Statewide had contracted with Nash Salvage, Inc. to sort and consolidate small containers of lab type chemicals into larger drums which would then be shipped for incineration. Two chemists, Val Brandt and Mary Halal were doing the work at the site on May 21st. They had previously done similar type of work for a large number of companies and had previously experienced no problem whatsoever in this type of work. A report from Nash Salvage dated May 21st, 1991 written by Val Brandt is attached.

A sample of the material in the drum was taken as noted about one hour before the incident and no chemical reaction was noted either at that time or since then in this sample. We have not been able to determine what caused the reaction. The vermiculite used as the inert agent for the consolidated container was taken from one of the other containers of lab type chemicals and it is speculated that there may have been some small amount of contaminate in that vermiculite which after a period of time reacted with the oxidizer, i.e., the organic peroxide. The Plant Supervisor and the Emergency Coordinator, Stuart Brown, breathed and smelled the "white smoke" and said that it had little odor and had no impact on his breathing. The report of Stuart Brown in the operating record is attached.

Four people, we understand, were taken to the local hospital by ambulance after the Fire Department was informed and we understand that they were sent home afterwards and no problems were indicated. The information on the people is not available to Statewide but the Emergency Data Management Service Phone number (213) 267-2475, (Richard Salinas) informed me that he would be willing to give information to the Department of Health Services if they called him. The Fire Department (Number 41) reported the incident as No. 134967 as indicated to me by Captain Light. The phone number for the Fire Department is (213) 564-6241.

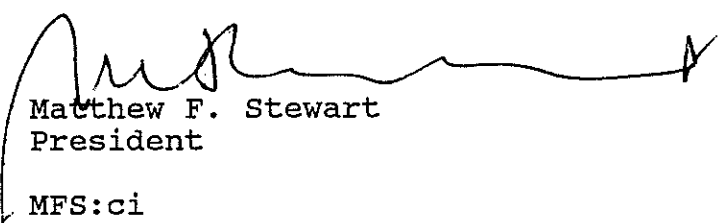
Department of Health Services - ATTN: Jerry Lile
Page 2
June 25, 1991

On June the 10th, we received a letter from a law firm who said they were representing Gloria McCune and Buford Harris of 140 E. 126th Street regarding an accident on May 28, 1991 and wanted the name of our insurance company so they could be in contact with them. I passed on this information to our insurance broker, Jardine Insurance Brokers, Elton Kunkle, phone number (714) 740-1127. We are insured by Lloyds of London.

Since the incident, we have stopped the consolidation of organic peroxides or any other materials from lab packs.

Very truly yours,

STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



Matthew F. Stewart
President

MFS:ci

Attachments

Statewide Environmental Services, Inc.

200 Oceangate, Suite 540; Long Beach, CA 90802
(213) 437-2242 Fax (213) 437-4562

May 23, 1991

Department of Health Services
Toxic Substances Control Program, Region 3
1405 N. San Fernando Blvd, Suite 300
Burbank, Ca 91504

VIA FAX #818-567-3129

Facility Location: Statewide Environmental Services, Inc.
12618 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA
90061 (213) 756-7896

Subject: Notification of an Incident Involving Hazardous Waste.

At approximately 3:15 P.M. on May 21, 1991, a polyethylene 30 gallon drum containing stabilized organic peroxides deformed and released a mixture of water vapor and carbon dioxide into the air causing a plume of what appeared to be smoke.

The facility contingency plan was implemented and the fire department was called. Immediately after the release, the vapor dispersed and it could be seen that there was no threat from the material. The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded as did the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services which issued a notice to comply.

Some of the solid material within the drum spilled inside the containment area. The material was cleaned up and replaced in second 30 gallon polyethylene drum for disposal.

During the release incident, four persons who were not employees of Statewide Environmental Services complained of symptoms and were taken to a medical facility for observation and then released. Samples of the material were taken prior to the incident and after the incident for analysis, waste profiling, and further investigation.

The incident is still under investigation.

Please contact the undersigned in the event additional information is required.

Respectfully,

Matthew F. Stewart
President

MFS/lw

OPERATING RECORD

P 01

5/21/91 2:45pm

While offloading drums - checking labels noticed Blue Poly 300gal Drum in oxidizer area spewing white cloud of smoke out of lid. First thing I did was to evacuate the yard of all personal (NASH-STATEWIDE-NATIONAL) upwind and away from drum (out of yard) - sent Dave down to corner phone to call fire dept. called office to explain situation - went over to reacting drum and knocked it away from all other drums in oxidizer area (isolated). And then evacuated myself until proper authorities arrived. kept everyone out until reaction was over. After situation was over cleaned up debris (vermiculite) and put it into new sealed drum and kept isolated. NASH chemist pulled sample of material after reaction.

NOTE: 2 NASH SALVAGE chemist + techs stabilized drum of organic peroxide with vermiculite in the morning and took sample of material at approx 2:00pm no reaction at that time.

STUART D BROWN / PLANT SUPERVISOR 5/21/91

Jax Sent to JRT
6/25/91
ei

VACUUM TRUCK SERVICE
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
ROLL-OFF SERVICE
DRUM CRUSHING

Nash Salvage Inc.

13254 LA QUINTA STREET
LA MIRADA, CA 90638
(213) 946-8431

CONTAINERIZED LIQUID DISPOSAL
FEDERALLY & STATE LICENSED
END DUMP SERVICE
SOLIDIFICATION

May 21, 1991

To Whom It May Concern:

On May 21, 1991 between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm Mary Halal and I, both of Nash Salvage, Inc. were sorting and consolidating small containers of labpacked chemicals into larger drums for incineration at ENSCO. We were segregating several different hazard classes of chemicals including organic peroxides. ENSCO prefers organic peroxides to be packaged for direct feed into their kiln. Preparation for direct feed involves solidification of organic peroxides with vermiculite into a poly drum. We have several customers that generate relatively large quantities of organic peroxides which we handle in a similar manner.

Organic peroxides are commonly used in industry as a hardener in resins such as polyester for the manufacturing of everything from surfboards to airplanes. An inventory of the peroxides that were in that drum is attached.

I started solidifying about 10:00 am and finished about 12:00 pm. At no time was there any indication of a chemical reaction happening such as heat being liberated, vapors being given off, or bubbling. We have commingled all of the organic peroxides previously with no reaction, with the exception of the malonyl peroxide, which is chemically similar to the MEK peroxide. It also has the same properties as the other organic peroxides such as being flammable and an oxidizing agent. I opened the drum between 2:00 and 2:15 to sample the waste for profiling to ENSCO. I obtained the sample and observed that at that time there were no visible vapors being given off, no heat or any other indication that a chemical reaction was occurring. We left the facility about 2:30.

Sincerely,



Val Brandt

FAXED

30 gallon poly drum

SES 5-21-91

Solidified Organic Peroxides (vermiculite)

benzoyl peroxide	1 x 5 grams solid	00321038
malonyl peroxide	1 x 1 lb. solid	00313011
TBP	1 x gallon liquid	00130007
MEKP	1 Qt. liquid	00130007
dicumyl peroxide	3 lbs. solid	00221022
dichlorobenzoyl peroxide	2 lbs. solid	00221022
dichlorobenzoyl peroxide	26 x 10 oz. paste	00520018
TBP	1 x 40 lb. liquid	00130006
TBP	2 x Gal. liquid	00130006
MEKP	9 x pt. liquid	00130006

TBP - tert-butyl peroxybenzoate
MEKP - methyl ethyl ketone peroxide